

The Cumberland Valley Quarterly Newsletter

Information of Interest
in Cumberland Valley Region

April, May, June, 2002

Volume Two Issue Three



A MESSAGE FROM NANCY BEAN

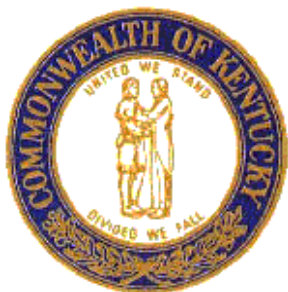
As you know, I have been working out of the region for approximately 4 months. While I am very committed to the COA process and am dedicated to doing everything I can to see Kentucky become accredited, assisting another region in preparation for COA has taken me away from you. I have not been physically with you to carry on the strides we have made as we have continued to improve our services to clients.

However, please be assured I have kept a very close eye on what is happening in Cumberland Valley. I have reviewed the management reports. I have gotten daily reports from the Regional Office on what is going on in the region. I have been in close contact by phone and email.

Through all of this, I want you to know how proud I am of you in the progress you have made during these last 4 months. You were doing extremely well prior to that. But that progress has continued and multiplied. It is very obvious I can take no credit for how well you do.

On behalf of the Regional Office, the Cabinet and the clients we serve, thank you for all your hard work.

I look forward to more of our working together as we discover other ways to continue to improve our quality.



GLENNA HOUSE RETIRES

Glenna House, Cumberland Valley's Personnel Liaison, is retiring after 32 years of state service. Dorcas Peach, Personnel Administrator, came down from Frankfort on June 25 to visit with Glenna. Pictured below from left to right: Sonja Day, Dorcas Peach, and Glenna House. We will sure miss you, Glenna! Good Luck.



A Special "Thanks" to everyone who contributed to this newsletter! Due to the fact that there are many pictures, this issue will take some time to download as you read through. Just be patient, they are worth the wait. Connie York

COMMUNITY NETWORK DAY A SUCCESS

by Dan Connell

Several community partners within the Cumberland Valley Region met at the London Community Center on June 12th for Community Network Day. The event takes place in the spring and fall each year and is sponsored by the Community Collaboration for Children. One of the main goals of Community Network Day is to inform the public by way of displaying poster boards, newsletters, and pamphlets.

Representatives from each community service provider were available to answer questions from the public. Family support, Protection and Permanency, Parents As Teachers, Christian Appalachian Project and many other community partners attended the spring meeting.

All participants were required to attend training workshops throughout the day. Each session served as an educational tool. It allowed all community partners and their fellow representatives to learn how the other service providers administer their programs which made the goals of Community Network Day much stronger. Some of the workshops included foster parenting, teen parenting and pregnancy, and comprehensive family services.

Family Support was represented by Sharon Woods, Mitch Goodin, and Jan Rose-White. Their display table featured information on services such as K-Tap, KCHIP, Food Stamps, and Comprehensive Family Services. Workers from the Knox and Laurel County family support offices helped in the preparation of the display table. It featured a poster board which was creatively illustrated and designed by caseworkers, OWEK volunteers, and KWP participants. The "Harlan Works" poster board was prepared by clients from Harlan County who enjoyed volunteering their time and efforts in making a poster board. A special note of thanks goes out to all who contributed to Community Network Day and to all those who helped with display features.

The afternoon concluded with small "door" prizes and employee recognition for members of the Community Collaboration for Children. The next meeting is scheduled in October at Union College. For more information about Community Network Day, contact program chairperson Maxine Reid at (606) 546-4767.





FOSTER CARE SUPPORT GROUPS FORMED IN WHITLEY COUNTY

by Steven Halstead

The Whitley Co. Foster Parents have started a Support Group. This group has already been making a difference in the care of our children. In addition to the foster parent support group, myself and the P&P office including their supervisor in Williamsburg has started a support group every month for the foster children. During the foster parent support group meeting the workers watch the children. The children get a chance to talk to a worker about any concerns they may have or questions. The children also see that they are not alone and that they do have support. The workers fix popcorn and drinks; they take out of their own pockets, for all of the children and let them watch a movie. None of the workers have asked for overtime for this activity. I really feel they need recognized for going way beyond their job duties.



RAY BALDWIN RETIRES

Ray Baldwin, Office of General Counsel, retired effective July 1. An impromptu reception was held in his honor on June 25. Ray's secretary, Judi Gilbert, wanted to take an opportunity to express to Mr. Baldwin our congratulations and best wishes for a happy retirement, and to thank Ray for his work over the years with the Cabinet for Families and Children.



REMINDER FROM SAM YORK, REGIONAL TRAINING COORDINATOR

Safety First Web-Based Training

All staff should complete this two-hour safety training at least once a year. The Safety First Web-Based Training can be accessed online via this link: <http://www.cfctrainingbranch.eku.edu/safetyfirst>

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“Honoring Excellence & Rewarding Outstanding Employee Service”

Congratulations to Patty Shoemaker of Harlan!

Cumberland Valley's HEROES Committee recognizes outstanding employees every quarter.

The Committee met on June 18, 2002. During the meeting, nominations for the second quarter were read. The Regional winner for the second quarter was Patty Shoemaker from Harlan. Others nominated were Lisa Thomas from Clay Co., Ben Stanley, Debbie Green, Susan Noe, and Patty Robbins from Harlan, Cynthia Widener from Bell, and Janice Terrell, Tina Croley, and Vickie Blevins from Whitley.

The HEROES Committee members wish to thank all persons who took the time to nominate someone, and they are hopeful that more employees will get involved with this nomination process!

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DONNA WEBB! CUMBERLAND VALLEY WILL MISS YOU!

Both Donna, and her husband Ed, will retire from state service this month. Donna's most recent years have been spent in the South Laurel P & P Office. Ed Webb is an employee of the Cabinet for Health Services, Office of Inspector General.

Congratulations on your retirements, and we wish you Good Luck! Enjoy those grandchildren! You will both be missed!



KAREN BECKNELL RETIRES

by Elaine Madden

Karen Becknell, Support Service Aide, retires on July 31, 2002. Karen began working in March 1973 and has seen many changes within our agency. Karen has worked primarily with the elderly population and really enjoys this work. Through her efforts, many elderly have been able to maintain their independence in their own homes. One customer has said that without Karen's weekly visits, she would not be able to remain in her home and will have to look for alternative placement. Karen enjoys working with her customers and has always proven herself to be dependable to meet their needs. Karen's recent health problems was the deciding factor in her retirement. Karen has always gone above and beyond the call of the duty and has made a difference in all of our lives, not just our customers. She and her laughter will be missed.



RETIREMENTS FROM ROCKCASTLE

from Fay Neeley and Rosemary Wyatt

We have two retirees in Rockcastle. Precia Bowling, 27 years of service, and Louise Bengé, 30 years of service, will both retire at the close of business July 31. We will genuinely miss both of these valued, tenured staff.



FROM CLAY COUNTY

Did you know that Melissa Bowling got married in June? She is now Melissa Davidson.



LINDA ROWLETT RETIRES

by Barbara Hill

Linda Rowlett will be retiring effective August 1, 2002. Her last day on the job is July 26, 2002. Linda started working March 27, 1967, at the age of 19 for what was then called Child Welfare. Frank Baker was the regional/immediate supervisor. She remembers when the agency got maybe two or three CPS referrals a month with only a couple of children in foster care. The regional supervisor was located here in the Corbin office.

From Child Welfare to Social Services to Community Based Services. She has watched the agency transform from generic to specialty to generic over and over again.

The office was first located on 1st Street and Main above what is now Cumberland Valley Bank. They moved to the old Corbin Public Library located on Center Street (Now Roy Kidd Avenue). In 1972, Social Services moved to its current location on Kentucky Avenue. 30 years in the same building.

In the past ten years, Linda has watched as the rotary phones were finally replaced with touchtone. From starting in 1967 she has worked on everything from a manual typewriter to an electric typewriter (which was wonderful) to word processor machines to computer.

Linda has been married to Johnny Rowlett for 37 years. They have three children: Melissa, Michelle, and Megan. They have four grandchildren: Jonathan, age 16, Lindsay, 12, Jamia, 8; Jordan, age 6.

When Linda had been working about a month she put her supervisor's mail in the wrong box. He drove all the way to Western Kentucky for a meeting that had been cancelled. She was petrified that she would be dismissed.

When asked what she recognizes as the best improvement in the agency, she replied "accountability". Linda described the transitions that have occurred over the years in positive terms and a positive outlook for the future of Kentucky children. She will be sorely missed.

LAUREL COUNTY FAMILY SUPPORT OFFICE RECOGNIZES ACCOMPLISHMENTS

by April Stewart

At the April CQI meeting, the Laurel County Family Support Office decided to form the Employee Recognition/Award Committee to recognize the accomplishments and efforts of employees in the local office. The committee formed was Nettie Ammerman, Lucille Roark and April Stewart.

In June, the committee sponsored an Ice Cream Social and achievement awards were presented to Jeff North and Joella Smallwood on completion of their degree, to Lucille Roark on obtaining her Driver's License and to Amy Estep on her recent promotion to the position of Family Support III.

July 2, 2002, staff enjoyed watermelon and cantaloupe (Melon Day) and wore red, white and blue to show patriotism and celebrate our independence. Staff agreed to have a day set a side each month for employee appreciation and August 15 will be Mexican Fiesta day with staff wearing their most festive apparel.

DALLAS CARR IS RETIRING

by Bobbie Miles

Dallas Carr, Support Aide, 27 years, is leaving July 31 from the Harlan P & P Office. I have worked with her for this length of time and she is like a sister to me. We have cried together, laughed together and been through a lot together. I have watched her children grow up and she has mine. I will miss her very much.



An Excel Tip from Connie York



You are working with an Excel document. You click on print and run to the printer. You expect to see your document, maybe it's a TWIST report, but what you have instead is what looks like a grocery store bar code! Do you know the reason it looks like this? Your document could be 20 pages, and all the information has actually printed on one sheet of paper.

To fix this:

- While in your document, go up to **File** in the top left corner.
- Move down and click on **Page Set up**.
- Click on the **Page** tab.
- Under **Orientation**, click on **Landscape**.
- Under **Scaling**, change the 100% to about **65%**.
- If your printer has legal size paper, you might want to change the **paper size** to **legal** (click on the drop down arrow and select legal).
- Click on **OK**.

This should make your document "**printer friendly**."



RECOGNITION FROM THE REGIONAL CQI TEAM

To all Cumberland Valley Community Based Services Employees...

On behalf of the Regional CQI Team, Mitch Goodin, Regional CQI Chair, and Lynn Grigsby, CQI Specialist, say **Thank You** for your continued EXCELLENCE toward Continuous Quality Improvement for our Families in Cumberland Valley! Thank you for your commitment to the CQI process. Let's continue the wonderful work we do working together to offer the best possible QUALITY OF SERVICE to everyone we work with: Our clients, Our Community Partners, Our Foster Parents, and each other.

Fun Night was June 28

ICE CUBE DEFROST GAME

by Fay Neeley

ROCKCASTLE COUNTY COOLED OFF THE FUN NIGHT'S FESTIVITIES WITH THEIR ICE CUBE "DEFROST" GAME. EACH PARTICIPANT WAS GIVEN AN ICE CUBE WITH A COOL GUMMY BEAR WAITING IN THE CENTER TO BE WARMED UP. THE FIRST COMPETITOR TO FREE THE GUMMY BEAR WOULD BE THE WINNER. NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE CONTESTANTS WERE EXTREMELY ANXIOUS TO COOL OFF AFTER THE HEAT OF THE AFTERNOON.

WE HAD TREMENDOUS FUN!



A FEW TEARS SHED FOR A GOOD CAUSE

by Alison Schaefer

Two or three of the Coordinators for Fun Night shed a few tears on the morning of the event. Carolyn Smith, Alison Schaefer and Tammy Brown had the wonderful job of cutting up two whole bags of onions in the break room at 31 South Laurel Road in London. Since all three are usually very vocal, it was amazing how quiet they became as the tears began to fall and the eyes began to sting from the onions. Maybe next time they will volunteer for tomatoes."

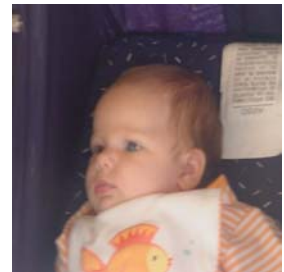
Ask Tara Mills how wet she got from the balloon toss game on Fun Night? She shivered all the way home.



from Connie York

Fun Night was held on Friday night, June 28, 2002, from 6:00 until 9:00 p.m. Festivities were at the shelter house on 229, between London and Barbourville, near the entrance to the Fairgrounds. I am sure that everyone across the Region will join me in thanking all the committee members, organizers, entertainers, and cooks for all the hard work that they did to ensure a great evening for all. It was truly fantastic. The children had a blast. I hope that we can make this a yearly event!

I tried to take some good pictures and I have many to share. Unfortunately my battery ran out before the evening was finished. I missed some wonderful moments, like the three-legged race, sack race, and balloon toss. I might have missed more. But at least I did capture some fond memories and some awfully sweet faces, too.





above: Thanks to The Cooks!





*directly above: Charlotte Hammons, Carolyn Smith,
Agnes Bargo and Dave Hampton were judging the
dessert contest. As the saying goes,
“It was a tough job”*



*directly above: Two Sets of Twins
the girls: daughters of Teresa Proffitt
the boys: sons of Lynn Grigsby*





